

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-__

Supporting Telecommuting Opportunities and Telecommuter Forward! Certification

Executive Summary

Telecommuting and broadband are increasingly important to the economy, education and daily life and are a key goal in Jefferson County's Strategic Plan. The State of Wisconsin, as well as its citizens, local units of government, schools, and businesses, all have an interest in expanding telecommuting opportunities throughout the state. Under Wisconsin statute section 196.5045, a city, village, town, or county may apply to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission for certification as a Telecommuter Forward! Community. If approved, the Commission issues a Telecommuter Forward! Certification showing that a local unit of government has taken steps to demonstrate its commitment to promoting the availability of telecommuting options by coordinating with public and private partners to become "telecommuter ready."

The Public Service Commission has prepared a Telecommuter Forward! Community Model Ordinance and application form to facilitate certification and statewide consistency. If a political subdivision adopts this model ordinance, or enacts its own ordinance and submits a certification that its ordinance meets the statutory criteria in Wisconsin Statute section 196.5045, it is eligible for Telecommuter Forward! Certification.

Enacting the Telecommuter Forward! Community Model Ordinance and obtaining Telecommuter Forward! Certification ensures the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and the people of the State of Wisconsin that Jefferson County supports: 1) coordinating and partnering with broadband providers, realtors, economic development professionals, employers, employees, and other telecommuting stakeholders; 2) collaborating with broadband providers and employers to identify, develop, and market telecommuter-capable broadband packages; 3) working with broadband providers and economic development professionals to develop common goals; 4) promoting telecommuter-friendly workspaces, such as business incubators with telecommuting spaces; 5) utilizing broadband mapping tools and other state-level resources; 6) maintaining regular communication with the state broadband office; and 7) making regular reports to the governing body of the political subdivision.

This resolution demonstrates the County's efforts in seeking additional grant funds for purposes of expanding telecommuting opportunities throughout Jefferson County. The Broadband Working Group considered this resolution at its meeting on November 6, 2019, and recommended forwarding to the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors for approval.

WHEREAS, Jefferson County supports the availability of telecommuting options, and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County hereby appoints the County Administrator or designee as the single point of contact for coordinating telecommuting opportunities with Jefferson County including the following responsibilities:

1. Coordination and partnership with broadband providers, realtors, economic development professionals, employers, employees and other telecommuting stakeholders.
2. Collaboration with broadband providers and employers to identify, develop and market telecommuter-capable broadband packages.
3. Communication and partnership with broadband providers and economic development professionals to develop common goals.
4. Promotion of telecommuter-friendly workspaces, such as business incubators with telecommuting spaces, if such a workspace has been established in the political subdivision at the time the political subdivision adopts the resolution.
5. Familiarity with broadband mapping tools and other state-level resources.
6. Maintaining regular communication with the state broadband office.
7. Making regular reports to the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors and/or the Jefferson County Broadband Working Group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors hereby supports telecommuting opportunities throughout Jefferson County and authorizes the Jefferson County administrator to submit an application for Telecommuter Forward! Community Certification to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

Fiscal Note: This resolution has no fiscal impact

Ayes:_____ Noes:_____ Abstain:_____ Absent:_____ Vacant:_____

Referred By:
Broadband Working Group

11-12-19

REVIEWED: County Administrator:_____; Corporation Counsel:_____; Finance Director:_____